



Guidance Document

Mission

Establish policy and guidance to ensure DOE spent nuclear fuel acceptance at the repository

Benefits

- Avoid repackaging of spent nuclear fuel
- Minimize future acceptance criteria requirements
- Decrease costs and time needed to dispose of fuel

Current Issues

Maintaining up-to-date guidelines on new requirements set by the national repository

Project Status

Developing an interim document that provides guidelines to meet the final criteria set by the national repository

Purpose

The Guidance Document provides the process and guidelines by which custodians of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) spent nuclear fuel can prepare that fuel for shipment to a national repository. The National Spent Nuclear Fuel Program developed this document to identify a process by which the DOE spent nuclear fuel custodians can prepare the spent nuclear fuel for disposal.

Project Description

The DOE Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management is developing a requirements document that defines the integrated acceptance criteria for spent nuclear fuel emplacement in a national repository. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will be the agency to license the national repository and to determine the adequacy of acceptance requirements for that repository.

The repository requirements document does not specifically prescribe spent nuclear fuels management by DOE. The Code of Federal Regulations provides some direction for preparing DOE spent nuclear fuel for disposal, but in many cases, those requirements are too general and do not provide specific directions in preparing spent nuclear fuel for disposal. Therefore, the Guidance Document is an interim document to interpret the repository acceptance criteria as they apply to DOE-owned spent nuclear fuel and to establish spent fuel-related environmental management policy for the DOE sites. The Guidance Document performs the following two functions:

1. Identifies the present requirements of the DOE Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, the DOE Office of Environmental Management, regarding the acceptance of DOE-owned spent nuclear fuel into a national repository.
2. Identifies a process by which sites managing DOE spent nuclear fuel can prepare it for acceptance into a national repository.

The Guidance Document is intended for use by the DOE sites managing spent nuclear fuel. The DOE sites will use this document to develop site-specific compliance documents that meet the repository acceptance criteria. Once the DOE sites develop these compliance documents, the National Spent Nuclear Fuel Program will remove the Guidance Document from the acceptance process.

Benefits

The Guidance Document increases the likelihood of acceptance of DOE spent nuclear fuel into the repository. Increasing DOE spent nuclear fuel acceptance reduces the need for repackaging the spent nuclear fuel. It also provides a clear certification process that promotes cost-effective, efficient spent nuclear fuel operations.



The Guidance Document minimizes impacts of future requirements that may be enacted as the repository requirements are finalized. This is because the Guidance Document prompts early resolution to issues involving acceptance of the DOE spent nuclear fuel.

Finally, the Guidance Document promotes consistency across the DOE sites managing spent nuclear fuel by providing a single, cost-effective source of criteria interpretation.

Unique Capabilities

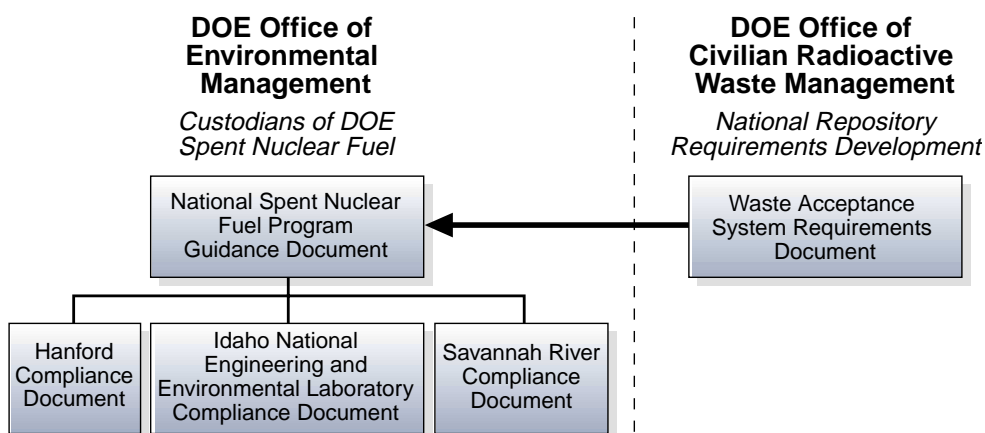
Acceptance criteria for the national repository continue to evolve. The Guidance Document is the first document to establish direction for the DOE managers of spent nuclear fuel to meet the repository acceptance requirements. Each DOE spent nuclear fuel site can then establish consistent site-specific compliance documents that are based on the Guidance Document.

Current Issues

The primary issue is maintaining the Guidance Document to the latest requirements established by the national repository. National Spent Nuclear Fuel Program personnel review new requirements upon release and propose guidance to meet the requirement. Program personnel are also working with the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management personnel to establish performance-based criteria that would benefit both the fuel custodians and the repository.

Project Status

The National Spent Nuclear Fuel Program developed the Guidance Document to address the repository acceptance criteria requirements. Each of the DOE spent nuclear fuel sites will develop a compliance document to consistently address the acceptance criteria. When the site-specific compliance documents are completed, this project will close.



Requirements of the national repository must be met before spent nuclear fuel can be accepted.

September 1997

Mined geological repository Disposal System Waste Acceptance Criteria drafted

March 1997

Preliminary Draft Guidance Document issued for review

February 1998

Preliminary Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management Data Needs issued

August 1998

Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management System Requirements Document issued

April 1999

Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management issues Waste Acceptance System Requirements Document

September 1999

Guidance Document is drafted

January 2000

Site Specific Compliance Documents are drafted

Fiscal Year 2001

Waste Acceptance System Requirements Document is issued

Project Contacts

William L. Hurt

Phone: (208) 526-7338
Fax: (208) 526-5337
E-mail: hurtwl@inel.gov

Gregg W. Wachs

Phone: (208) 526-9796
Fax: (208) 526-5337
E-mail: gww@inel.gov